REMARKS

Claims 16-24 were presented and examined. Claims 16-24 are rejected. In response to the Office Action, Claims 16-24 are amended. No claims are added. No claims are cancelled. Claims 16-24 remain in the application.

Applicants request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

I.   Claim Objections

It is asserted in the Office Action Claims 22, 23 and 24 are objected to due to informalities.

In response, Claims 17-20 and 22-24 are amended to correct their dependencies from Claim 1 to Claim 16, and from Claim 6, to Claim 21 respectively.

Approval is respectively requested.

II.   Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konrad (US-5974444), and further in view of Serbanescu (US-20030162595).

In response, Applicant amends Claims 16 and 21 to affirmatively recite that the predetermined form of the multiplex data are data packets for transmitting over a network as shown in amended Claims 16 and 21.

In the Action, the Examiner cites Konrad, Fig. 3C and column 7: 16-19, 39-45 and column 10: 12-18 for its teachings of a server which performs multiplexing and de-multiplexing of data into the video/audio data and sensory data.

The present invention processes video/audio data, and sensory data which are synchronized and multiplexed together into data packets for transmitting over a network (claim

16) with Claim 21 receiving such multiplexed data packets containing said synchronized video/audio data and sensory data.

However, the multiplexing as taught by Konrad, and the synchronizing, as taught by Serbanescu, do not meet the claim limitations, as amended, for the following reasons.

In the present invention, the video/audio packets are multiplexed and synchronized with touch/odor and taste packets. That is, rather than creating and transmitting packets of data which contain video information, audio information, touch information, odor information, or taste information, according to the invention, the video/audio packets are synchronized with touch/odor/taste packets and multiplexed together for transmission over a network.

Regarding the synchronization taught by Serbanescu, for example at paragraphs [0059]-[0061] that audio, video can by synchronized with an action script which may contain codes to produce sensory outputs rather than video and audio, such synchronization requires that the code be embodied on storage media such as video tape, CD ROM or DVD. Thus, Serbanescu does not contemplate transmission of the data over a network. Rather, data is played back locally so that there is no possibility of the data becoming unsynchronized. Serbanescu does not contemplate packets since Serbanescu does not contemplate transmission over a network. Therefore, since Serbanescu's teaching of synchronization does not involve packetizing data or multiplexing the video/audio data and the sensory data, Serbanescu's teaching of synchronization does not meet the claim limitations, as amended.

In a prior Office Action, the Examiner cited Murakami for its teaching of multiplexing audio, video and data packets. However, Murakami's teachings are limited to audio and video data packets. As to Konrad's teaching of a server which performs multiplexing and de-multiplexing of data, Fig. 3C cited by the Examiner does not seem to disclose any form of multiplexing or de-multiplexing. As to column 7: 16-19 and 39-45 relied upon by the Examiner, for this teaching the relevant teaching from Column 7: 39-45 reads as follows:

"In the client-server service model, an intermediary between a client and service. A server is often used to surmount a boundary. A server may multiplex requests from multiple clients to a service and de-multiplex responses from the service to the appropriate clients. A server is not required if there is no boundary, i.e., where client and service can interoperate directly."

Thus, what Konrad teaches is multiplexing requests from multiple clients. In this connection, a request is defined as follows: Column 7: 51-55:

"In the client-server service model, a generic term for instructions, commands, data or combinations thereof conveyed between the client and the server, and between the server and the service."

However, multiplexing among requests from multiple clients for instructions, commands, data or combinations thereof, does not teach or suggest multiplexing of the actual data, i.e., audio/video data and touch, odor or taste sensory data.

Although column 9: 1-5, Konrad teaches a network which conveys data among computers including by packet switching which implies packets are created, Konrad contains no teachings whatsoever regarding the content of such packets, or that such packets may contain audio/video and sensory data which has been synchronized and multiplexed together.

Thus, although Serbanescu teaches synchronizing audio/video data and sensory data, it does not teach any form of multiplexing and/or packetizing. Although Konrad teaches multiplexing and forming data packets, there is no teaching or suggestion whatsoever that such multiplexing and data packets relate in any way to data packets which contain synchronized audio/video and sensory data.

That is, Konrad's multiplexing only concerns processing requests from multiple clients for instructions, commands, data or combinations thereof and multiplexing such requests for transmission. Given Konrad's reference to conveying data among computers by packet switching, Konrad's teaching is limited to taking the multiplexed requests for instructions,

commands, data or combinations thereof, and then packetizing them for transmission. However, multiplexing among requests from multiple clients would not lead a person skilled in the field of the invention to combine such multiplexed requests and instead, substitute Serbanescu's synchronized audio/video and sensory data as there is no connection whatsoever between the two concepts. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the grounds for rejection is requested.

Accordingly, the proposed claims amendments and argument distinguish over the combination of references cited by the Examiner

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konrad (US-5974444), and further in view of Serbanescu (US-20030162595) is respectively requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely Claims 16-24, patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.
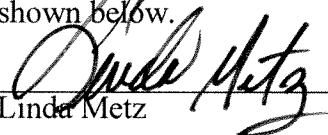
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _10/28/11_

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below.

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